

PUGET SOUND PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTOR SOCIETY

WHAT: REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS

WHERE: DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE, 2208 S. 223RD ST (TAKE MIDWAY EXIT OFF I-5, GO TO FIRST STOP LIGHT WEST OF PACIFIC AVE SOUTH, TURN RIGHT UNTIL 223RD, THEN TURN WEST (LEFT). THE TEMPLE IS JUST WEST OF THE FIRE STATION)

WHEN: THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST). NEXT MEETING IS 05/21/15, 7 - 9 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM)

WHY: TO SHARE AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF OTHER WHO ARE INTERESTED IN COLLECTING EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

MEETING AGENDA: A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING, SHOW & TELL, OUR PROGRAM WHAT GOODIE DID YOU FIND AT OUR SALE?, AUCTION (ONE ITEM PER MEMBER) AND DOOR PRIZE

Special points of interest:

- *Coleman Projector*



Bob Peters ©2015

Some who collect older or unusual cameras are interested in other vintage things—cast iron, clocks, or perhaps other antiques that might have been used by our fathers or grandfathers—especially if they were the best of their type available and still have utility. While I'm not a Coleman collector, I've always had a passing interest in Coleman stoves, lamps and other Coleman products.

Recently I bought a very clean Coleman propane stove that had never been lit. Part of the reason may have been that the brass tube ("pressure regulator") that connects the propane bottle to the stove was missing and no longer available from Coleman. An internet search led to Oldcolemanparts.com based in Kalama, WA and operated by Michael Merz. Michael listed a NOS part in stock at a competitive price. I asked if I could stop by on my way to Vancouver, WA and pick one up. Michael said, "Sure, I always like to meet my customers. While I was there, Merz mentioned his "museum." I asked about it, and he offered to show my Son and I his amazing collection. ("Amazing" is not a word I use lightly.)

WOW! Lots of things I'd never even seen pictures of caught my attention; but, I thought

camera or lantern slide collectors might like to hear about a very rare Coleman 35mm slide / film strip projector. Michael had several of them. (He doesn't know how many were made, but there are probably less than 6 or 7 total in the hands of Coleman lantern collectors.) The projectors started life in about 1949 as a Coleman model 237 lantern—Coleman's main export lantern. However, it burned kerosene



rather than the white gas used almost exclusively by most early Coleman products.

Often, these projectors accompanied missionaries to third world countries where electrical power was not available. According to Merz, the projectors were made by two different companies. The main difference between the SVE and AOC pro-

jectors was in the barrel or shroud fitted to the model 237 lantern. The shrouds on those made by the Society for Visual Education ("SVE") were painted black. American Optical Company ("AOC") painted the shrouds on theirs maroon. (see photos below) Michael told us some say that the Charles Beseler Company had made one also, but that he had never seen one. Both SVE and AOC also made more conventional projectors using the same or a similar slide changing apparatus.

Merz doesn't know the original selling price, but he has seen perhaps 3 or 4 on the auction site in the last 15 years and they generally bring around \$1,000 depending on condition. Some survivors may still be in those third world countries where they were used, but the average collector wouldn't invest the time and effort needed to find them—as Merz has.

Merz's collection is "always kind of" on display when a customer wants to see it, and he is generally around. So if you need Coleman parts (especially obsolete parts) and want a treat, contact "Mike" mike@oldcolemanparts.com. But, take a camera because you'll be unlikely to ever see many of Michael's Colemans anywhere else...Ever!

Inside this issue:

Meeting Minutes 2

Contact Information 2



PSPCS Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16, 2015

The Meeting was called to order by Mike Immel at 6:55pm. There were 17 members or guests in attendance.

Show Report: We had 5 students, 72 early in's, and 330 general admission for a total of 407 through the door. We sold 137 tables, with 14 cancellations and 5 display tables. We had 9 new members join the club.

Old Business: The Siggy Vancouver Show is April 26th.

New Business: We will have a barn sale May 2nd. At Bob Kelly's house. This is in relation to the two collections we recently purchased for the club. One in Redmond, and one in Port Angeles.

Show and Tell: 4 members brought or told stories about 9 items.

Program: Terry Luck gave a very informative, thorough and extensive talk about a No.1 Kodak Autographic Junior camera that was given to him by Walt Hughson.

Auction: 2 items were available for auction. One sold for \$4.00.

PSPCS June Meeting Notice

The June meeting will be the SECOND Thursday of June—6/11/15.

Contact Information

The Bellows Newsletter is published 10 times per year by the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society, Inc. (When we have new Editor)

Information for the Bellows should be sent to: pspcsociety@gmail.com

The PSPCS internet address is <http://www.pspcs.org>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Puget-Sound-Photographic-Collectors-Society/125678560778201>

Wiki - <http://fastglass.wikispaces.com/>

Dues are \$20.00 per year (Jan-Dec) and should be sent to Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road Cle Elum, WA. 98922. (509) 674-1916, Email: sesparrow9@msn.com
